

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-8, 12-22, 26-32, and 34 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amend the claims as follows:

1.-8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) A backlight apparatus comprising:

a wedge-type light guide having a refractive index n_1 , and having a top surface, a bottom surface and a side surface;

a light source for directing light to said side surface of said wedge-type light guide;

a light transmission layer having a refractive index n_2 , which is smaller than said refractive index n_1 , and having a top surface and a bottom surface, wherein said bottom surface of said light transmission layer is attached to said top surface of said wedge-type light guide; and

a plurality of prisms attached on said top surface of said light transmission layer for directing the incident light from said light transmission layer toward a light path along a direction of a normal line of said top surface of said light transmission layer.

10. (Original) The backlight apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein the range of said refractive index n_1 of said wedge-type light guide is approximately 1.4 through approximately 2.0, and the range of said refractive index n_2 of said light transmission layer is approximately 1.2 through approximately 1.4.

11. (Original) The backlight apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein said refractive index n_1 of said wedge-type light guide is approximately 1.49, and said refractive index n_2 of said light transmission layer is approximately 1.3.

12.-22. (Canceled)

23. (Original) A liquid crystal display (LCD) apparatus comprising:

an LCD panel including an upper transparent substrate, a lower transparent substrate, and a liquid crystal material filled between said upper transparent substrate and said lower transparent substrate;

a light diffusing layer adjacent to said upper transparent substrate; and

a backlight apparatus adjacent to said lower transparent substrate, wherein said backlight apparatus comprises:

a wedge-type light guide having a refractive index n_1 , and having a top surface, a bottom surface and a side surface;

a light source for directing light to said side surface of said wedge-type light guide;

a light transmission layer having a refractive index n_2 , which is smaller than said refractive index n_1 , and having a top surface and a bottom surface, wherein said bottom surface of said light transmission layer is attached to said top surface of said wedge-type light guide; and

a plurality of prisms attached on said top surface of said light transmission layer for directing the incident light from said light transmission layer toward a light path along a direction of a normal line of said top surface of said light transmission layer.

24. (Original) The LCD apparatus according to Claim 23, wherein the range of said refractive index n_1 of said wedge-type light guide is approximately 1.4 through approximately 2.0, and the range of said refractive index n_2 of said light transmission layer is approximately 1.2 through approximately 1.4.

25. (Original) The LCD apparatus according to Claim 24, wherein said refractive index n_1 of said wedge-type light guide is approximately 1.49, and said refractive index n_2 of said light transmission layer is approximately 1.3.

26.-32. (Canceled)

33. (Original) A light guide apparatus comprising:

a wedge-type light guide having a refractive index n_1 , and having a top surface, a bottom surface and a side surface;

a light transmission layer having a refractive index n_2 , which is smaller than said refractive index n_1 , and having a top surface and a bottom surface, wherein said bottom surface of said light transmission layer is attached to said top surface of said wedge-type light guide; and

Divisional patent application of 09/664,719 6
Docket No. JP919990142US2
YOR.237DIV

a plurality of prisms attached on said top surface of said light transmission layer for directing the incident light from said light transmission layer toward a light path along a direction of a normal line of said top surface of said light transmission layer.

34. (Canceled)